Phenomenology and Art

Seminar Leader: Katalin Makkai
Course Times: Wednesday 9:00-10:30 & Friday 13:30-15:00
Email: k.makkai@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30-12:00

Course description

This course considers the writings of Heidegger, Sartre, and Merleau-Ponty on art, aesthetics, and philosophy of art. The three thinkers share a philosophical commitment to phenomenology (which they draw from Husserl). They also share the view that art is a central human endeavour, and that reflection upon art is central to philosophy. Yet the paths they take from these common starting points are remarkably different. We trace these paths, attending to the particular works of painting, literature, and architecture invoked along the way.

Assignments, due dates, and assessment

20% seminar participation
20% presentation
20% 1st paper (~5 pp. or ~1875 words) due 23:59 Monday October 12
20% 2nd paper (~5 pp. or ~1875 words) due 23:59 Monday November 16
20% 3rd paper (~5 pp. or ~1875 words) due 23:59 Monday December 14

College policies

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. More than two absences (that is, absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the grade for the course.

Per the Student Handbook, on the submission of essays: **essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.**

Schedule
(subject to revision)

1. W Sept. 2 Introduction
   F Sept. 4 Husserl, in Moran and Mooney, *The Phenomenology Reader*, Pt. II §1
Moran, *Introduction to Phenomenology*, pp. 1-20

2. **W Sept. 9** Husserl, in Moran and Mooney, *The Phenomenology Reader*, Pt. II §2
   **F Sept. 11** Husserl, in Moran and Mooney, *The Phenomenology Reader*, Pt. II §§4-5

   **F Sept. 18** Heidegger, in Moran and Mooney, *The Phenomenology Reader*, Pt. VI §§3-4

   **F Sept. 25** Heidegger, "The Origin of the Work of Art", pp. 33-50

5. **W Sept. 30** Heidegger, "The Origin of the Work of Art", pp. 51-68
   **F Oct. 2** Heidegger, "The Origin of the Work of Art", pp. 69-86

6. **W Oct. 7** Heidegger, “Building Dwelling Thinking”
   **F Oct. 9** Sartre, in Moran and Mooney, *The Phenomenology Reader*, Pt. IX §§1-3

   **F Oct. 16** Sartre, *Nausea*, pp. 45-89
   [fall break]

   **F Oct. 30** Sartre, *Nausea*, pp. 136-178

9. **W Nov. 4** Sartre, *What is Literature?*, I
    **F Nov. 6** Sartre, *What is Literature?*, II

10. **W Nov. 11** Sartre, *What is Literature?*, III pp. 67-115
     **F Nov. 13** Sartre, *What is Literature?*, III pp. 116-160

     **F Nov. 20** Merleau-Ponty, “Cézanne’s Doubt”

12. **W Nov. 25** Merleau-Ponty, “Cézanne’s Doubt”
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F Nov. 27</td>
<td>Merleau-Ponty, “Indirect Language and the Voices of Silence”</td>
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<td>13. W Dec. 2</td>
<td>Merleau-Ponty, “Indirect Language and the Voices of Silence”</td>
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<td>F Dec. 4</td>
<td>Merleau-Ponty, “Eye and Mind”</td>
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<td>F Dec. 11</td>
<td>Bachelard, “The Phenomenology of Roundness”, from <em>The Poetics of Space</em></td>
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<td>15. W Dec. 16</td>
<td>completion week</td>
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<td>F Dec. 18</td>
<td>completion week</td>
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